

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 21, 2008

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR KIDNEY CANCER RESEARCH

Dear Colleague:

We hope that you will join us in supporting additional funding for kidney cancer research by signing the attached letter to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. The letter requests that the Subcommittee provide an additional \$15 million within the Congressional Directed Medical Research Program for kidney cancer research in the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Appropriations bill.

The American Cancer Society projects that kidney cancer will lead to an estimated 13,010 deaths and 54,390 new diagnoses in 2008, making it the eighth most common cancer in the United States. The rate of people developing kidney cancer has been rising since the 1970s, and according to the National Cancer Institute, it has the second highest rising incidence rate of cancers among women and the fourth highest among men.

Mortality rates for kidney cancer patients are disturbingly high due to the absence of screening techniques to provide early diagnosis coupled with the limited treatments that are currently available. There is only one FDA-approved drug for metastatic kidney cancer that has shown any durable response and the cure rate is less than 10%. Unlike other types of cancer, no therapy currently exists to prevent the future recurrence of kidney cancer once patients are in remission. We hope you will consider our request to invest in diagnostic tests and new treatment options for those who suffer from this disease.

Kidney cancer is a devastating illness with inadequate screening and treatment options. We encourage you to support additional funding for kidney cancer research and join us in sending the attached letter. If you have any questions or would like to sign the letter, please have your staff contact Stacey Warady with Senator Schumer at 4-3242 or John Myers with Senator Specter at 4-4254.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer



Arlen Specter